

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Serial Number: 09/840,364

Filing Date: April 23, 2001

Title: MECHANIZED RETRACTABLE PELICLES AND METHODS OF USE

Assistant: Intel Corporation

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Dkt: 884.382US1 (INTEL)

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-20, 24-34, and 39-42 without prejudice. The remaining claims 21-23 and 35-38 are allowed, and appear below as originally filed.

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) A pellicle device comprising:

a base to align with a photomask;

a pellicle comprising two or more shutters to move relative to the base between a first position overlying the photomask and a second position not overlying the photomask; and

a transport element to move the pellicle.

22. (Original) The pellicle device recited in claim 21, wherein the wavelength of the photolithographic radiation is within the range of 2 to 200 nanometers.

23. (Original) The pellicle recited in claim 21, wherein the photolithographic radiation is from the group consisting of ultraviolet, deep ultraviolet, extreme ultraviolet, X-ray, electron beam, and ion beam.

24-34. (Canceled)

35. (Original) A method comprising:

covering a photomask with a pellicle comprising two or more shutters; and

opening the shutters to uncover the photomask.

36. (Original) The method recited in claim 35, wherein the photomask is uncovered to irradiate the photomask with photolithographic radiation.

37. (Original) The method recited in claim 35 and further comprising:

closing the shutters when not irradiating the photomask with photolithographic radiation.

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38. (Original) The method recited in claim 35, wherein the shutters are coupled to a transport element, the method further comprising:

opening and closing the shutters using the transport element.

39-42. (Canceled)